

Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area

1990 – Lower Umatilla Basin is declared a Groundwater Management Area because regional nitrate-nitrogen concentrations exceeded 7mg//L. The area includes parts of Morrow and Umatilla counties. A 4 year interagency hydrogeological investigation to determine the extent of the contamination and to identify potential sources was begun at this time.

December 1997 – Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area Action Plan is created

January 2019 – Second Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area Action Plan is created (this still may be in draft form)

January 16, 2020 – Food & Water Watch and 8 other petitioners ask EPA to take action in response to nitrates in drinking water in the LUBGWMA (eastern Oregon), citing lack of action since the GWMA began in 1990.

January 29, 2020 – R10 RA provided initial response acknowledging receipt and indicating that EPA would respond further when we have completed our review.

Feb 26, 2020 – Initial reviews complete, including contacts with ODA, OHA & ODEQ (primary state regulators) & consultations with OECA & OGC.

Feb 27, 2020 – Region 10 briefs their ECAD director to “inform, receive feedback & obtain decision to proceed with recommendations”

May 7, 2020 – Region 10 briefs their ECAD director again about the LUB GWMA with a draft letter to send several Oregon state agencies regarding potential next steps in this matter

May 28, 2020 – WED (Carol) briefs Susan Bodine at OCE weekly regarding the LUB GWMA situation

June 4, 2020 – Region 10 is scheduled to provide an informational briefing to Dave Ross and Anna Wildeman on the LUB GWMA